

# MERCATOR:

OR,

## Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

### CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the British Trade, &c.

From Thursday, October 29. to Saturday, October 31. 1713.

*The Account of our present Trade with France continued.*

*A particular View of Clandestine Entries of Goods really sent to France.*

*A Ship cleared to Marseilles, and no Goods Entered thither, and yet the Ship went out full.*

*All the Goods Entered to the Streights, so the Trade to France is Concealed, with a Hint of the Reason of it.*

*An Account of Foreign Goods Exported to France the last Two Months.*

*A Thousand Hogsheads of Tobacco sent to France in that time.*

*A needful Hint to the Virginia Merchants upon that Subject.*

**H**aving in our last given a Taste of what our Trade with France NOW IS, while under the Fetters and Restraints of unsufferable Duties and Loads in France, it seems a Reflection so natural to every one to make, that the *MERCATOR* thinks it needless to say any thing to it, but just put the People in mind of it; what then would this Trade be, if the said Fetters and Restraints were taken off?

It remains, in the next place, to give an Account of what Foreign Goods we have Exported to France in the same time of Two Months now last past; that the Weakness and Wickedness of that Suggestion may appear, which the Opposers are not ashamed to insist on, (viz.) That by the *Merchandizes of Great-Britain* is not understood the Foreign Merchandizes we Import.

Also by this Account we may see the Addition to our Exportations to France from our Plantation-Goods, and Goods of our Foreign Trade; and Both together will shew a little what a Trade it is we are now talking so meanly of: As to the Value of these Goods, it is not doubted, but the Opposers will at their Rates bring them to be worth little or nothing; but let any one take Mr. Proctor's Price-Courant, and Rate them Impartially, and add the Profit of such of them as may be supposed to be for English Account to them, and the Freight, for they cannot now pretend the Ships come loaden back, and then let them tell us, how much they come short of One hundred thousand Pounds in Two Months time, without reckoning Scotland and all the Out-Ports of England, and without reckoning the Clandestine Entries mentioned before under the general Head of Flanders, and the Streights, of which it is meet to say a word or two before the Account of the other is mentioned.

1. About Entering Goods to the Streights. Every one knows, that France has two great Ports in the Streights, besides many smaller, Marseilles and Thoulon. How comes it to pass, that abundance of Goods are sent to these Ports, and not one Entry made of them, or but one? And how comes it, that any Entry can be made thither, if no Ship is cleared out

for that Port, or Entered to take in Goods thither? But the Truth is this, that while the high Duties remain in France upon English Goods, the Merchants run great Quantities on Shore there, and are not willing to let the Entries here express the very Ports they go to, because it is a kind of giving Notice to the Farmers, who may have Correspondents here for that purpose, where to expect those Goods: So all the Goods sent from hence to that part of France are Entered under that General, The Streights. And, in time, the *MERCATOR* may give a particular Account of what such Ships have actually Carried.

The same is the Case in Flanders; and these Heads have excepted great Quantities of English Goods out of this Account, as particularly some Entries, which upon occasion will be proved to be sent for France; containing such Quantities and such Goods as follows, (viz.)

2316 C. Sugar
112978 I. Tobacco
117 Fodder of Lead
160 Spanish Cloths
150 Yorkshire Cloths, or Double-Dozens
320 Stuffs and Serges
60 C. Leather
70 Pieces of Bays
6000 Goads, Cottons
2800 Yards of Frieze
4000 Yards of Flannels
200 Perpets

And many other large Quantities, as well of Woollen Manufactures, as of other Goods, which tho' not included in the Account following, as not being Entered for France, yet we have reason to believe, and are fully satisfied were certainly Shipped on board Vessels bound for France, and actually Carried to France.

If the People Shipping the Goods have made use of this Method as a Stratagem to make the Trade to France look less than it really is, that Fraud will for the future be Detected, and serve but to Expose them.

But,

But, exclusive of all those Things, the following Account of Goods Exported is actually taken from the Custom-House, and is Entered openly for France it self, as was expressed in our last, (viz.)

A particular Account of Foreign Goods Re-Exported to France in the Port of London only, from the 19th of August, to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, 1713.

11200 l. Rice
10528 l. Currants
77357 l. Cotton-Wooll, besides 184 Bags of Cotton-Wooll, which at 2C. 2qr. per Bag, is
52256 l. Cotton-Wooll more
455449 l. Virginia Tobacco
52509 l. Pepper
2596 l. Pimento
4289 C. Logwood
297 l. Indico
1500 l. Gauls
1289 l. Sarsaparilla
100 C. Brazilletto
8 C. Elephants Teeth
1160 C. Sugar
11 C. Sugar refin'd
40 l. Snuff
10 Ton Oil
151 Gall. Sweet Oil
9 l. Thrown Silk
21 l. Grogram Yarn
3360 l. Goats-hair
20 doz. Goats-skins
300 Canes
2 Chests China-ware
56 Pieces Fine Callicoes and Quilts
216 Gall. Canary Wine
9 Casks Sandiver
Besides several small Parcels of other Goods.

There needs no other Confutation of the Enemies of the Treaty of Commerce, or of the Arguments, which they use against the Trade to France, than these Accounts of Goods Exported just now at a time, while the Matter is in Dispute, and just now while the Trade is under such Pressures abroad, and while it pays in General 50 per Cent. nay in some Goods 70 or 80 per Cent. in France.

How can it be said our Manufactures are not saleable in France, that the French will not take them, do not want them, make them cheaper, and the like, when we see, they will pay 50 per Cent. and 70 per Cent. for them, rather than go without them?

How can it be said, that our foreign Merchandizes are not admitted into France by this Treaty, when even before the Treaty takes place, such Quantities of all sorts of foreign Merchandizes are admitted? For here are Turkey Goods, African Goods, East and West India Goods, all included in the abovementioned Account. Do any People think, the Treaty forbids, what was allowed before? Or is it made to allow, what was forbidden before?

If these Goods, being the Exportation of two Months, and two Winter Months too, would amount, as above, to near 100,000 l. in Value for the Port of London only; What must it be, when the Trade is open, the high

Duties taken off, and our Goods admitted at the moderate Imports of 10 per Cent. Custom in France? when the Dutch shall have no Advantage to carry them cheaper than we can; when there shall be no need to conceal the Ports of Parts they go to? and when an open Trade shall have encouraged the Commerce in general?

If it be objected, that this is against our own Rule, being a Trade immediately after a long Prohibition; it must be replied, it is also a Trade under such a Disadvantage, that the Dutch, by the Delay of the Bill, have crowded the Ports of France with all the Goods they were able in our stead, and that our Exports in many, if not most of these Articles, had been more than double, had we not Traded this Year under this intolerable Inequality as to the Dutch, (viz.) that they have had a settled open Trade thither, and we have not; by which Means they have filled France with East-India Goods of all sorts, Sugar, Tobacco, Pepper, Indico, and the like; nay, with our own Manufactures, of which, though the Benefit of the Consumption has been ours, yet the Gain of the Sale has been theirs: By this means our Export has been infinitely less than it would otherwise have been, and all that Encrease of Commerce, which might have been expected to have followed a long Prohibition, has been shortned by the Neglect of opening our Trade, when other Nations opened theirs, which is more than an Equivalent.

The Virginia Merchants may here see also, how foolish and weak the Objections against the Treaty have been as to their Tobacco; for if a Thousand Hogsheads of Tobacco have been carried into France in two Months time, as by the Account abovementioned appears, and that NOW before the Trade is opened, and while it lies under the Inconvenience of a Monopoly in France; what should it have been, when by the Treaty, that Trade would have been set free in France from the Limitation of the Farmers? The Virginia Merchants, under the present Decay of their Plantations by the Encrease of Dutch Tobacco, and for want of an extensive Trade for the Consumption of our own, will best be Judges of the Injury they suffer for want of a Trade, which as it is lately increased, is likely to take off 20,000 Hogsheads of Tobacco a Year: But if these Men obtain their Will, the French may be more likely wholly to prohibit it, or set themselves to work to plant it in France, as the Dutch do now in Holland, and so at last may be able to supply not themselves only, but the rest of Europe, and finish the Ruin of the Virginia Trade, the most considerable of all our Plantation-Product.

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